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ridges, valleys, rocky slopes, glades, swamps, bogs, the topography determining in each case the character of the vegetation.

In Part IV, on the "Relation of natural vegetation to crop possibilities," SHREVE concludes that only in a general way may the native or introduced plant cover, as seen today, be significant of agricultural capabilities, although there is evidence that the virgin forest did give indication of the character of the underlying soil which was observed to advantage by the early settlers. Part V, on the "Agricultural features" by BLODGETT, Part VI on the "Forests and their products" by F. W. BESLEY, and Part VII, a "List of plants collected or observed" by SHREVE, complete the book.

The careful work of the authors and the collection of the floristic and ecological data make this a valuable treatise of its kind. It is handsomely printed and abundantly illustrated. For regions presented in such detail and with many local references, the lack of adequate maps is often noticed.—
LAURA GANO.

MINOR NOTICES

Wettstein's Handbuch.—The mere fact that a second edition of a book has become necessary indicates that it has met some need. The second edition of WETTSTEIN'S *Handbuch*⁶ does not differ essentially from the first edition. Minor inaccuracies have been corrected, additions have been made both from the rapidly increasing literature and from the author's own investigations, and a large number of illustrations, of the same high grade which made the first volume useful, have been added. As in the first edition, the work on angiosperms is particularly extensive, occupying about one-half of the entire book. This part of the work presents a compact, profusely illustrated account of all the more important families, which should give the beginner a sound foundation for advanced work, and which cannot fail to be helpful even to the professional taxonomist. It is encouraging to note that in discussing the phylogeny of angiosperms, the monocotyls are derived from the lower dicotyls.—
CHARLES J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Ornamental shrubs.—It is safe to predict that the latest handbook by APGAR,⁷ while intended for the general public, will prove most useful to the teaching botanist who has occasion to draw much of his material from parks and greenhouses. In its scope the volume includes not only native and hardy shrubs, but also introduced forms, many of which are conservatory plants in the northern United States. Numerous keys, based mostly upon leaf characters, appear to be most efficient in aiding the student to identify

⁶ WETTSTEIN, R. V., *Handbuch der systematischen Botanik*. 2d edition. 8vo. pp. viii+914. figs. 600. Leipzig: Franz Deuticke. 1910. M 24.

⁷ APGAR, AUSTIN C., *Ornamental shrubs of the United States*. 12mo. pp. 352. figs. 621. New York: American Book Company. 1910. \$1.50.

species even when they are not in flower. The keys are supplemented by simple descriptions and by more than 600 illustrative drawings, while a glossary of botanical terms will prove useful to the beginner, and the size of the book will recommend it to all as a most useful pocket aid to the study of a comparatively unknown portion of our flora.—GEO. D. FULLER.

Dictionary of plant names.—GERTH VAN WIJK,⁸ a teacher in the schools of Holland, has published the result of a most laborious compilation of data, extending through twenty-five years. The dictionary is intended to enable one to find the vernacular name of a plant in four languages, provided he knows its scientific name; the four languages chosen being English, French, German, and Dutch. Two other parts are promised, which will really form an index to the first parts, and will enable one to find the scientific name of a plant if he knows the vernacular name in any one of the four languages. All questions as to the usefulness of such a work are submerged by amazement at this exhibition of enjoyment in endless drudgery.—J. M. C.

Album of thallophytes.—The first fascicle of an album of the algae, fungi, and lichens, by COUPIN,⁹ indicates that the complete work will be useful to all who are interested in the lower plants. All the genera and many of the more important species are illustrated by drawings emphasizing the features which are of importance in classification. The figures are in plates opposite the descriptions, and with the description of each species is a bibliography of the principal contributions, so that more extended information may be easily obtained.—CHARLES J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien.—Parts 241 and 242 conclude the supplement to the Chlorophyceae by N. WILLE; include that to the Phaeophyceae and Dictyotales by the late F. R. KJELLMAN and N. SVEDELIUS; and begin the supplement to the Rhodophyceae by N. SVEDELIUS, who continues it in parts 243 and 244. A new genus (*Pseudolithoderma*) of Lithodermataceae is described by SVEDELIUS.—J. M. C.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS

Current taxonomic literature.—O. AMES (Phil. Journ. Sci. Botany 6:35-56. 1911) under "Notes on Philippine orchids with descriptions of new species III" places on record additional data concerning this group of plants in the Philippines and describes 22 species new to science.—R. C. BENEDICT (Am. Fern Journ. 1:40-42. *pl.* 2. 1911) describes and illustrates a new species of

⁸ GERTH VAN WIJK, H. L., A dictionary of plant names. 2 parts. 4to. pp. xxiv+1444. Haarlem: Published by the Dutch Society of Sciences. 1909, 1910.

⁹ COUPIN, HENRI, and COUPIN, MILE. FERNANDE, Album générale des Cryptogames (algues, champignons, lichens). Fasc. 1. *pls.* 1-15. Paris: E. Orlhac, Editor. *fr.* 2. 50.